

OCTOBER 2006

THE LATEST NEWS FROM TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN THIS ISSUE

- Farewell from the Executive Director 1
- Partner Spotlight: National Public Lands Day 2
- Award Spotlight: Take Pride National Award Winners 3
- International Coastal Cleanup 3
- Lewis & Clark Finale 3
- Save the Mustangs Fund 4
- New Supporters & New Partners 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 18, 2006
World Water Monitoring Day
<http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.org/>

October 28, 2006
Make A Difference Day
www.usaweekend.com/diffday

November 18, 2006
National Family Volunteer Day
www.disney.go.com/disneyhand/familyvolunteers

Farewell from the Executive Director

For more than four years, I have had the incredible opportunity to be a part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, serving first with External and Intergovernmental Affairs and then with Take Pride in America. These experiences have allowed me to learn many new things and develop skills that will influence the rest of my life. It is difficult for me to leave the people and the programs about which I care so deeply. However, I am also excited that the time has come for me to accept and take on new challenges in my life.

I have enjoyed meeting so many of you personally at volunteer events, award ceremonies, and conferences across the country. Your enthusiasm for the outdoors and commitment to cooperative conservation has left a permanent impression on me. I take memories of children planting a vegetable garden for seniors at an assisted living facility,

middle-school students monitoring water quality in a local river, retirees becoming campground hosts, interpreters educating the public on the importance of caring for our treasured public lands, and many volunteer cleanup events at beaches, parks, and along rivers.

Particularly in the last year, as Executive Director of Take Pride in America, I have been able to work with partnering organizations to instill in the next generation a shared responsibility and enjoyment of these natural and cultural places. All of you together help us to accomplish the

mission of Take Pride. I am confident that with the continued support of our partners, people young and old will be impacted and moved to lend a hand on our public lands.

Should you wish to contact me after October 11, I may be reached at mcangelosi@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support. I hope our paths will cross again. Best wishes to you all.

Sincerely,

Michelle Angelosi



Michelle hams it up for the camera at Capital River Relief in April 2006.



Michelle gathers with Superintendent Mark Engler (left) and Susan Cook, Volunteer Coordinator; (center) from Homestead National Monument Park, and other teachers and park employees at Beatrice Middle School in Nebraska in May 2006.



At the Take Pride Conference in February 2005, Michelle took a break with Darren Bird of Take Pride in Utah, Dawn Libby, former Take Pride staff, and Robbie Wilbur, Take Pride coordinator for Mississippi.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Americans Take Pride and Participate in National Public Lands Day

Each September, tens of thousands of volunteers donate time and energy to public lands, resulting in the largest day of public lands volunteering in the country. This year, the 13th Annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) was Saturday, September 30, 2006. Local, state, and Federal land managers registered their site for NPLD and welcomed people of all ages to clean up, repair, build and maintain their parks, refuges, beaches, trails and other public areas.

NPLD hosted a signature event, representing the volunteers throughout the country, at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco, California. Nearly 100 volunteers were greeted with a continental breakfast and many thanks from Superintendent Brian O'Neill and Director of National Public Lands Day, Robb Hampton. Volunteers included families and residents of San Francisco, members of the Golden Gate Parks Conservancy (the friends group of the park) and employees of Travelocity, a supporting partner of NPLD.



The volunteers spread out throughout six sites and worked for three hours pulling weeds from fields, cleaning up the beach, transplanting seedlings, removing overgrowth from a hiking trail, and caring for native plants.

After the volunteers completed their projects, everyone gathered for a lunch and to hear Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, speak about the importance of motivating children away from computers and televisions and reintroducing them to nature and the outdoors.

The 2006 NPLD included over 1,100 sites, including lands in all 50 states. NPLD is a program of The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation and is sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. Take Pride in America partners with NPLD annually to recruit additional sites to register for the event, as well as distribute program materials to all NPLD sites.

Cub Scouts in Puerto Rico Contribute to NPLD

Cub Scouts, Pack 1204 (Webelos), gathered to volunteer for National Public Lands Day in San Juan, Puerto Rico for a Take Pride in San Juan National Historic Site event. The Cub Scouts are chartered by Josefita Montserrate de Selles School.

The volunteers cleaned up debris at the "La Perla" beach, as well as participated in a comprehensive educational tour of the San Cristobal Fort. Because of their participation, the Webelos earned the opportunity to advance on their "Arrow of Light" requirements, including such as citizenship, communicator and the Cub Scout Conservation Award.



Cub Scouts from Pack 1024 in San Juan proudly display Take Pride patches they earned by participating in NPLD at the San Juan National Historic Site.

Lake Berryessa, Pope Canyon Trail Benefit from NPLD

The Bureau of Reclamation participated in NPLD by hosting a cleanup at Lake Berryessa, just outside Sacramento, California. The Bureau also recognized this effort as a Take Pride in America event.

Eight volunteers and three members of the Berryessa park staff spent several hours removing trash and large debris piles from Pope Creek Canyon. Participants cleared garbage on foot, with a boat, and by using several kayaks.

Berryessa Trails and Conservation, a non-profit organization based in Napa County, was instrumental in organizing the event. In addition to trash removal,



participants also performed maintenance on the Pope Canyon Trail.

Volunteers on Lake Berryessa gathered trash along the shoreline.

AWARD SPOTLIGHT

National Awards Ceremony Celebrates Volunteers' Accomplishments

The 2006 Take Pride National Awards Ceremony was held in Washington, DC on September 14, 2006. Twenty-eight individuals and groups were presented with Take Pride in America National Awards in eleven different categories. Winners were selected for their outstanding contributions to volunteer projects and events at local, state and Federal public lands across the country. Joining the winners for the ceremony were Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne, Take Pride Executive Director Michelle Cangelosi and USA Freedom Corps Director Desiree Sayle.

After the ceremony, winners and their guests were honored with a reception in the South Penthouse of the Department of the Interior building. The following day, they were treated to a day of sightseeing throughout our nation's capital.

Photos of award winners and the ceremony are available at www.TakePride.gov.



Secretary Dirk Kempthorne addresses winners and guests during the ceremony.

"You freely give your time and toil to make this nation great. In doing so, you have used your pride to make us all proud. You have transformed the nation's public lands. You have made them more beautiful places, one acre at a time."

—Secretary Kempthorne to award winners

International Coastal Cleanup Improves Beaches Shore to Shore

This year, the 21st Annual International Coastal Cleanup was held Saturday, September 16, 2006. This annual event, directed by The Ocean Conservancy, brings together people from around the world to remove debris from miles of shoreline and inland waterways.

Take Pride Executive Director Michelle Cangelosi joined Alberto Marti of the SCUBA Dogs Dive Shop in San Juan, Puerto Rico for their annual event. Alberto is the National Coordinator for the International Coastal Cleanup in Puerto Rico, and last year they hosted the



Volunteers stand proud in front of the debris they collected in San Juan.

largest beach cleanup effort EVER conducted in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean. Michelle and Alberto worked with nearly 650 volunteers to remove 4,300 pounds of trash from the Punta Salias Beach, Toa Baja. This year, across the island, there were 108 beach cleanup sites registered, with 90 sites reporting 7,245 volunteers clearing over 311,000 pieces of trash. Way to go, Take Pride in Puerto Rico!

Retracing the Journey: Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Finale

"Currents of Change," the final Lewis and Clark Bicentennial signature event was held in St. Louis, Missouri, Friday, September 22 – Sunday, September 24, 2006.

The diverse, free festivities took place along the long, flat stretch of road that parallels the Mississippi riverfront adjacent to the famous Gateway Arch and Jefferson National Expansion Memorial managed by the National Park Service. Thousands of people enjoyed the exciting, fun programs offered. Popular events included lectures, demonstrations and reenactments of early 19th century American life along the river; discussions and displays to educate the public about the American Indian culture of the area; and storytelling and fiddle music.

Programs such as the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Celebration bring Americans together to celebrate events of historical and cultural significance.

BLM employee Elias Williams, from Salmon, Idaho, uses animal skins and weapon replicas to educate the public about life in the early 19th century.



Continued Success for the Save the Mustangs Fund



The Save the Mustangs Fund continues to help place wild horses and burros in good homes. A recent recipient of support from the Fund is the 3-Strikes Mustang Corral in Weston, Nebraska. Jason and Anissa Meduna created 3-Strikes Mustang Corral in July 2005.

Since then, they have purchased a total of 101 sale eligible wild horses, most recently they purchased 30 horses in early October. The mission of 3-Strikes Mustang Corral is to enhance the mustangs quality of life by creating a natural habitat setting that fosters the independence and integrity of wild horses, educate the public on the wonders of these living leg-

ends, and preserve a rural way of life by showcasing the beautiful mustangs on a century old farm.

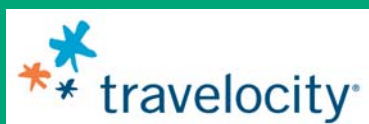
Their motto is "The horses always come first!". Thanks to 3-Strikes Mustang Corral for their help in protecting this living legend.



Recently purchased horses at their new home in the 3-Strikes Mustang Corral.

Welcome New Supporters!

Travelocity joins Take Pride as a Pioneer Supporter, seeking to further their newly launched initiative, Travel For Good's Change Ambassadors program. It aims to make it easy for travelers to access volunteer opportunities around the world.



Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. joins Take Pride as a Pioneer Supporter through their global earth charter that promotes environmental responsibility throughout the entire company. Toyota has provided support for Take Pride print materials, and looks to grow their partnership in 2007.



Welcome New Partners!

Congresswoman Thelma Drake
District 2 of Virginia

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano
District 38 of California

Post Falls, Idaho
Mayor Clay Larkin

School #12, Clifton, NJ
Principal Sal Anzaldi

School #17, Clifton, NJ
Principal Anthony Orlando

St. Brendan School, Clifton, NJ
Principal Patricia Deleu

Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Clifton, NJ
Vice-Principal Marie A. Van Wallegghem

Houck Middle School, Salem, OR
Principal Liz Ryan

Dowling Catholic High School, West Des Moines, IA
Principal James Dowdle

Thank you...

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of *In Touch With Take Pride*. Please keep sending us articles and photos at TakePride@ios.doi.gov for future newsletter editions or for publication on our website.

Ooops. . .

In the September issue of *In Touch with Take Pride*, the town of Clifton, New Jersey was featured in the City Spotlight. The name of the mayor in the article was incorrect. The Mayor of Clifton is James Anzaldi. We apologize for the error.